

## Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-03

EUR-08 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01

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P R 101815Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8480

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2750

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, BH, GT, TD, OAS, UN

SUBJECT: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO VIEWS ON POTENTIAL  
GUATEMALEN MILITARY ACTION AGAINST BELIZE

1. DURING A MEETING WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MINISTER  
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CUTHBERT JOSPEH NOVEMBER 10 I ASKED  
FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN BELIZE AND HIS  
GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS REGARDING POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS THERE.

2. JOSEPH STATED THAT IF MILITARY ACTION BU GUATEMALA  
BECAME IMMINENT, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WOULD SEEK UNITED  
NATIONS' ACTION. HE STRONGLY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD  
PERSONALLY OPPOSE PRIOR JURISDICTION BY THE OAS OR  
RESORT TO THE RIO TREATY SINCE HE FELT THAT THE LATIN  
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COUNTRIES IN THE OAS HAD SIMPLY NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY

RESPECTFUL OF BELIZE'S RIGHTS AND THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO BE "INTERNATIONALIZED" IN A WIDER FORUM IN ORDER TO PROTECT BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE. HE COMMENTED ON HIS OWN EXPERIENCE AT THE SAN JOSE CONFERENCE TO AMEND THE RIO TREATY AND HIS CONVICTION FROM DISCUSSIONS THERE THAT THE RIO TREATY WOULD BE AN INADEQUATE TOOL FOR PROTECTION OF BELIZE SINCE UNITED KINGDOM WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE OAS NOR A SIGNATORY TO THE RIO TREATY AND COULD NOT BE.

3. JOSEPH CITED THE THRUST OF THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT TO COURT NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT AS A SPECIFIC REACTION TO GUYANA'S SENSE OF TERRITORIAL VULNERABILITY AND INABILITY TO USE THE OAS FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTION AGAINST NEIGHBORING VENEZUELA. JOSEPH SAID THAT AFTER THE RECENT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN LIMA, PERU, HE HAD DRAWN ASIDE GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER SONNY RAMPHAL AND DEMAS AND ASKED THEM FRANKLY WHAT ALL THIS GUYANESE GOVERNMENT EMPHASIS WAS ABOUT REGARDING NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY. RAMPHAL REPLIED THAT BASICALLY IT WAS SIMPLY AN EFFORT TO ACQUIRE PROTECTION FOR GUYANA AGAINST POSSIBLE VENEZUELAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. IN THE BELIZE SITUATION JOSEPH FELT A CORRESPONDING WIDER INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE ISSUE WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SECURE PROTECTION FOR BELIZE AND THAT THE RIO TREATY WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE. IN THIS CONTEXT HE CALLED ATTENTION TO A STATEMENT BY BARBADIAN PRIME MINISTER BARROW PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF TRINIDAD NEWSPAPERS TODAY. THE PRESS REPORTS ALLEGE THAT BARROW INDICATED BARBADOS MIGHT HAVE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OAS OVER THE GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE BECAUSE OF OAS INEFFECTIVENESS ON THIS ISSUE.

4. WITH REGARD TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO'S QUERY REGARDING PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING OF MEXICO'S POSITION ON GUATEMALA-BELIZE ISSUE (MEXICO 9828), I DO NOT FEEL IT ADVISABLE TO QUERY THE FOREIGN MINISTER DIRECTLY IN THIS REGARD SINCE I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD BECOME AN INTERPRETER FOR MEXICAN VIEWS TO THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. HOWEVER, I KNOW PERSONALLY FROM PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' RECENT CONVERSATION WITH ME THAT

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HIS VIEWS ON THE MEXICAN ATTITUDE REGARDING BELIZE ARE DRAWN DIRECTLY FROM HIS PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DURING ECHEVERRIA'S RECENT STATE VISIT TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 10 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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